



CALIFORNIA CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL



The next **Child Welfare Council Annual Report** covering the period of **July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**, to be released in **November 2023**, will feature highlights on each committee and task force of the Council. Please complete the following as a draft to review with your group for their input and confirmation at the **December 2022** meeting and return your completed template to Sarah.Saria@jud.ca.gov no later than **November 30, 2022**.

July 2021 through June 2022 Activities and Accomplishments: Please briefly list major activities and accomplishments for FY 21-22.

Concerns or Challenges: Describe any issues that you feel need the Council’s attention in order to maximize opportunities and address barriers to the work of the Council.

2022 – 2023 Goals & Objectives: Indicate your committee or task force’s goals and objectives for the coming year.

Committee/ Task Force Name	California Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Action Team
Purpose	The CSEC Action Team is a dynamic and responsive statewide workgroup that brings together key stakeholders—community based and grassroots organizations, public agencies, lived experience experts, service providers, parent partners, judges, lawyers, and interested community members to address CSE. We meet on a quarterly basis to grow awareness about CSE, identify challenges facing California’s young people impacted by CSE, share promising practices, and develop tools and resources. Our goal is to spur members across California to take action to better serve youth and their families who have been impacted by exploitation..
July 2021 through June 2022 Activities and Accomplishments	The CSEC Action Team continues to meet on a quarterly basis. Participants include representatives from multidisciplinary agencies (e.g. child welfare, mental health, probation, etc.), community based organizations, and lived experience experts. The topics covered during the most recent meetings are included below. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● September 2021

The September 8th CSEC Action Team meeting focused on the experiences of expecting and parenting youth (EPY) who are also experiencing exploitation. It featured a presentation by Children's Law Center on the legal requirements for youth in out of home placement, a panel of people with lived experience, and a presentation from the Nurse Family Partnership about how their program supports youth through pregnancy and parenting. The meeting also included breakout sessions to give an opportunity for attendees to discuss what they learned, their needs, and to share resources with each other. This meeting was attended by 102 people.

- **December 2021**

The December 1st meeting focused on the experience of boys and young men experiencing CSE. It featured a short presentation on the existing data and research that exists on boys experiencing CSE and highlighted that contrary to popular belief boys and young men experience CSE at a much higher rate than previously thought (between 37-51%). In addition, a panel of lived experience experts talked about their personal and professional experience with CSE, the importance of addressing the CSE of males, as well as provided examples of ways to do so. This meeting was attended by 98 people.

- **March 2022**

The March 2nd meeting was a continuation of the December meeting and focused on the identification and service provision for boys and young men experiencing CSE. It featured a panel of lived experience experts who talked about their personal and professional experience with CSE. In addition, a doctor who works with youth in the LA detention center spoke about her experience identifying and working with boys. This meeting was attended by 112 people.

- **June 2022**

The June 1st meeting highlighted CSE within Native communities and focused on raising awareness about California's Native American history and the connection to modern day exploitation of Native Youth. The meeting featured a presentation from two Native American women on the history of Native communities followed by a case study from a Native American adult survivor of CSE. This meeting was attended by 92 people.

In addition, the CSEC Action Team provided learning opportunities in between quarterly meetings that addressed the needs elevated during the quarterly meetings such as:

- Hosted a presentation from the Expectant and Parenting youth conferences in LA county.
- Hosted several screenings of a documentary entitled Boys on the impact of trafficking on young men
- Held the training “Supporting Survivors Through Reproductive Experiences.” The training was two parts. During the first part attendees were trained by Eri Guajardo Johnson on practical approaches to serving people who have experienced sexual violence. During the second hour, three Advisory Board members spoke on a panel about the ways providers can best support EPY who are also experiencing exploitation. The panelists provided approaches that worked or would have worked in their own lives and the approaches they utilize when serving youth and adults.
- Hosted a presentation from Bob’s House of Hope, a program of Ranch Hands Rescue. Bob’s House of Hope is a comprehensive residential program and safe house for young adult male-identifying survivors of sex trafficking. Ranch Hands Rescue also prevents sex trafficking of males by providing trauma resolution to boys who have been sexually abused. Their goal is to provide a safe place to live for male survivors to rest, recover, and rebuild and to empower young men with the skills and trades they need to sustain themselves and reach independence after a lifetime of trauma. The program is up to 3 years to ensure total trauma recovery.

Last, the third cohort of the CSEC Action Team’s Advisory Board was selected and is serving a three year term (2021-2023).

In 2016, the CSEC Action Team launched the first Advisory Board, composed of adult lived experience experts – those with personal experience with CSE as children/youth. It was the first state-funded Board of its kind in the nation.

Now in its third cohort, these lived experience experts represent a range of racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and LGBTQI2S+ identities. The Advisory Board members hold extensive professional knowledge and are committed to serving as advocates.

Members of the Advisory Board are tasked with providing leadership and consultation to the Action Team, governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders on how to improve state and local policy and practice for children and youth who

	<p>have been impacted by CSE. Examples of the Board’s consultative work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Providing consultations for the creation of the Court Harm Reduction guidance series, including the Harm Reduction Bench Cards for judicial officers ● Participated in the CSEC Action Team meetings as lived experience experts on the topics of expecting and parenting youth and experiencing exploitation ● Consulted with Riverside County on youth specific issues ● Developing a trauma informed language trainings in partnership with CDSS that will be launched in January during Human Trafficking Awareness Month ● Consulting on the evaluation of the SB 855 CSEC Program in partnership with researchers at UC Berkeley ● Developing a webinar to discuss the realities of exploitation from a lived experience perspective that will be held live in January for Human Trafficking Awareness month
<p>Concerns or Challenges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ongoing participation from law enforcement partners continues to be a challenge ● There continues to be high turnover of county CSEC specific service providers and other key stakeholders who attend the CSEC Action Team meetings. We are actively brainstorming ways to provide onboarding materials to new members of the action team so they can be active and engaged participants as we continue to move the work forward. ● We are brainstorming ways to engage and center the work of the action team on communities’ needs. We want to ensure community-based organizations and underrepresented communities are present so we can be more inclusive and more responsive to communities’ needs.
<p>2022 - 2023 Goals/Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue uplifting, developing, and disseminating best practices to, identify and serve youth impacted by CSE, particularly the disproportionately impacted populations of youth, and prevent CSE.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Elevate the importance of county and community-based organization partnerships and facilitate those partnerships whenever possible.● Collaborate with counties and community based organizations to encourage partnerships between the two entities to better serve youth and their families impacted by CSE.● Center the voices and experiences of people with lived expertise to guide and inform the work of the CSEC Action Team. |
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